

Issue:
November/
December 2023



KNIGHT INSIGHT

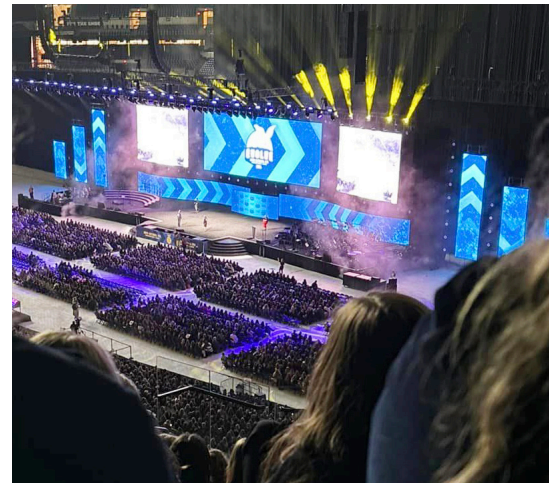


Save the Date

TES presents the musical **FINDING NEMO, Jr!** Feb 2 @ 7 pm & Feb 3 @ 2 pm 

FFA Students Compete at National Level

Ten FFA students took to the road and made their way to Indianapolis, Indiana for the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo at the end of October. Students began making their way through Pennsylvania, stopping to tour the Longwood Gardens and the New Holland Plant, a tractor manufacturing plant. They then witnessed a live auction at the New Holland Auction Barn. Traveling through West Virginia, they enjoyed a fun detour to Cabela's. In Ohio, they visited the Ohio State University Vet College. Once in Indianapolis, students participated in the Expo, presentations, and workshops while in the Convention Center, community service throughout Indianapolis, and award ceremonies and keynote speakers in Lucas Oil Stadium when they weren't competing. Seniors Megan Weisbrodt and Lily Darling went on stage to receive the Star Chapter Award. Tully was recognized as a two-star chapter this year. Ashlynn Lucas-Santos competed in Spanish Creed Speaking, and while she didn't move on from the first round of competition, the FFA advisors couldn't be more proud of her dedication, not to mention she was one of the youngest participants at the National level. The Conduct of a Chapter Meeting team consisting of Mary Adams, Meadow Bassett, Hunter Bennett, Addison Brown, Reagan Flanagan, Brier Huggins, and Jaxson Willis, also did well for such a young team and received a bronze ranking within the competition. In the very little spare time while at Nationals, the FFA students fit in an Indy scavenger hunt, the zoo, a rodeo, and a game night, along with some homework/study sessions. At the end of the convention, students got to see Tully alumni Ty Edinger and Katie Haier receive their American Degree - another proud FFA advisor moment. The FFA students are continually proving that they abide by the FFA motto: *Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve*. Way to go, Tully FFA!



Tully Parks and Recreation

The varsity soccer teams hosted the Tully Parks & Recreation youth soccer teams for pregame and halftime festivities during their respective homecoming games in October. There were upwards of ninety youth athletes in grades PreK-6th grade there to support the varsity teams.



Principal's Message



Edward Kupiec

The year is flying by! Between Halloween and December, the month of November always goes very quickly. Our Halloween parade is always a highlight for students and staff, seeing the creative costumes as well as the seniors returning to parade at the elementary school for the first of their two visits. In addition to report cards going home for the first marking period, on November 9th, parents/guardians were able to meet 1:1 with teachers in-person or virtually for parent-teacher conferences. On November 17th, our 5th and 6th grade Chorus performed the National Anthem at a Syracuse Crunch game. Our most recent P2 traits of study have been Bravery, Gratitude, and Kindness. REV Theatre has already visited TES to hold a couple of performances, but our students finally get to take the stage this month in the updated auditorium for their winter concerts. On December 14th, our 5/6 Band and 5/6 Chorus will perform in the evening. The school show will take place on December 20th. On December 21st, our 5th and 6th grade students will also travel to the JMA Wireless Dome for the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Education Day. As part of the event, students will get to watch the SU Women take on St. Francis, PA. During the winter months we always see an uptick in other illnesses like cold, flu, and strep throat. Please make sure to keep students home if they have a fever or are not feeling well so we can try to limit the spread of all illnesses. Have a wonderful holiday season; we'll see you in 2024!

Edward Kupiec, ES Principal • Phone: 315.696.6213 • Twitter: @ekupiecTullyES • Email: ed.kupiec@tullyschools.org

PTO News

Greetings from the Tully Elementary School PTO! We hope that you are enjoying this holiday season. Thank you to everyone that participated in our yearly Tully gear sale which was offered via a website during the month of November. Looking ahead, the winter Scholastic Book Fair will run from December 4th-7th, and we are hoping to host another event (weather permitting) in December. Details will be shared soon! If you would like to become more involved in the PTO, meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, via zoom. The link is typically shared on ParentSquare as well as in our group on Facebook. TES PTO is a 501(c)3 organization that gladly accepts tax exempt donations. Please inquire if you wish to donate. Thank you for supporting the TES PTO.

PreK/K Registration

It's hard to believe with seven months of the school year left, but we are starting our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration process for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have not already done so, please register your child(ren) online at <http://www.tullyschools.org>.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, children must be district residents and turn 4 years of age, but not yet reach age 5, by December 1, 2024. For the 2024-2025 school year, Tully Elementary School is able to accommodate a maximum of 54 students in pre-kindergarten. If more than 54 students have been registered for pre-kindergarten by January 31, 2024, the District will need to conduct a lottery to determine enrollment and organize a waiting list. Please note that pre-k is a full-day program, and we cannot provide school bus transportation until a child is 4 years old.

To enter kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years of age, and no older than 6 years of age, by December 1, 2024. Unlike pre-kindergarten, there is no limit on the number of district-resident kindergarten students who can be enrolled at Tully Elementary.

Information about the screening process for both grade levels will be mailed out to enrolled students in the spring. Please don't hesitate to contact the elementary office at 315-696-6213 if you have specific questions about the registration or screening process.

ATHLETIC NEWS

Fall Recap

The 2023 Tully varsity athletic fall season was a huge success! The Varsity Golf team set a school record for wins, finishing the season 14-2. The continued development of the golfers was evident all fall as they continued to post new low scores each and every match, playing some of their best golf at the end of the season.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished the year with 16 wins, a sectional finals appearance, and a top NYS ranking for Class C. The boys' soccer team battled all year and had a great season.

The Varsity Girls Soccer team battled all year and played their best in sectionals. They dropped a close contest to Hamilton, 2-1. The girls return several key players for next year and will look to continue to grow as a team.

The Girls XC team finished as one of the top teams in Class D at sectionals. They also continued to show improvement, running their

best at the end of the year. Anna Congelli moved on to the NYS XC Championships after a great season.

The Boys XC team once again finished as one of the top teams in Section 3 Class D. They had a lot of success throughout the year and showed tremendous improvement. The future is bright as they return a lot of key runners next year.

Southern Hills Football had a great year, finishing as the C/D Division champions after knocking off the top two teams in the playoffs. The coaches and team showed tremendous grit and determination throughout the season, playing their best come playoff time.

Southern Hills Cheer had a great fall as well. The cheer squad was able to provide some game time entertainment and support the Storm football team all fall.

Petting Zoo Comes to TES



The FFA advisors helped organize a petting zoo for TES students so they could experience a little interaction with farm animals. Students learned that it was important to stay calm and quiet when near the animals and some general care-taking. They were able to pet goats, a pony, rabbits, chickens, a calf, and llama/alpaca fur. This activity helped some students make connections to science and social study units involving agriculture, farming, and animals. Many students were excited to engage with the animals and pointed out features on the animals such as the goat horns, the texture of the chicken feathers, and how soft the pony's nose was. Some students kept their distance and observed but all were able to mill around and visit with the animals in whatever capacity made them comfortable.

JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

College and Career Fair



The JSHS counselors put in an extraordinary effort in creating this year's College and Career Fair for students. Several colleges from the community, state, and public sector were in attendance as well as several first responder organizations, military branches, and tradesmen companies. We saw many familiar faces that either work in our community, donate their time to the school, or are part of our students' families. We even saw a few Tully alumni. Students were given the opportunity to speak with fair participants of their choice after their lunch period during an alternate bell schedule. Many fair participants offered brochures, company/college paraphernalia, or interactive tasks. Many students said that they received good information and some even were able to narrow down on their interests after high school. A big thanks goes out to our JSHS counselors and all the participants for taking an interest in our students' futures!

Principal's Message



Michael O'Brien

As we turn the calendar to December, we hope that everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed the company of friends and family! It's hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the winter holiday recess and the beginning of a new year! A few weeks ago, all students received their first marking period grades. Teachers and parents alike may want to check in with each other about their student's performance. Parents can help their children do well in school by encouraging them to always give their best effort. Successful students are those who are active learners that participate in class activities and discussions, ask for help before feelings of being overwhelmed set in, and studying between quizzes and tests, to name just a few. Our school counselors, Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Davin, can assist students with their concerns about their academic performance and give them tips and strategies that work for specific scenarios. The after-school Activity Period is an excellent time for students to take advantage of seeing their teachers in a less formal setting. Our teachers are almost always available and want to work with their students during Activity Period. During this time, instruction and support can easily be tailored to each student's individual needs. Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher directly if there are concerns.

We wish everyone a safe holiday season!

Michael O'Brien, JSHS Principal • Phone: 315.696.6235 • Email: mike.obrien@tullyschools.org

Burger Cook Off



The Animal Science class got to taste their work during the Beef Cattle Unit, along with some volunteer judges. Learning about different cuts of beef, students had to prepare and cook burgers that contained one secret ingredient, a variety of seasonings, toppings, and condiments. In groups of two, students cooked two burgers - one to cut into quarters for the judges and one to cut in half for themselves. They then named and presented their burger to the judges in the Burger Cook Off Challenge much like you may see on cooking shows. The Happy Bacon Cheeseburger with bacon being the secret ingredient took the win while the Double B burger with paprika for the secret ingredient took second, and the MD Special with banana peppers for the secret ingredient took third. Students were judged on appearance, taste, topping combination, and presentation. No matter if you were a competitor or a judge, the burger cook off was a tasty lesson!

Science in Action: Visiting the Mudboils



Students in the Environmental Science class took a field trip to witness the effects of what mining can do to our land. Mudboils, a natural, but rare, phenomenon created when an area of land collapses and springs of pressurized water bring sediment and mud to the surface, were first documented right here in Tully. These "mud volcanoes" discharge a rate of twenty tons of silt a day, according to onondaganation.org, which then floods into Onondaga Lake, polluting it and making wildlife almost nonexistent. Not only did the mining indirectly affect the water systems, it continues to affect the hills, creating sinkholes, rock fissures, and mudslides. Many Tully natives remember the mudslide that happened in 1993, which was a direct result of the mining. Environmentalists believe it is important that our younger generations learn about the unique geology in the area, the impact that humans can have upon our land, and how we can help it, which were the main purposes of the field trip. Bill Kappell, who retired from the US Geological Survey, helped facilitate the field trip, leading the students through the mudboils off Tully Farms Road. Students at the high school level who are interested in this topic are invited to join Environmental Club or speak to Mrs. Tucker for more information.

Senior Spotlight - RACHEL DADDONA



People/Pets in your family: Kristin and Joe Daddona (mom and dad), Ashley and Sarah Daddona (sisters), Pebble and Cali (cats), Gomer (dog), Brewski (fish)

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career has been developing this forever-lasting camaraderie between my friends and teachers. I've truly found my best

friends for life. Also, Ms. Paccia is probably one of the most influential teachers I've ever had. I will never forget how she and her family supported me at my first 10-mile race. It was awesome; I placed second. Same thing with Mr. Russell. He's like family to me; he's made me into the toughest person I could be and picks me up when I fall.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? Activities in school have taught me how to be a good leader, role model, citizen, friend, student, and person in general.

What are your plans after high school? After high school, I plan to attend a 4-year college or university somewhere down south with a dual major in Business and Food & Nutrition.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? I see myself living in a house with my 5 best friends, preferably on the coast, planning or owning my own smoothie bowl business called *BakeSomeRach*.

Senior Spotlight - SAMANTHA GARBACK



People/Pets in your family: Kelly Garback (mom), Chris Garback (dad), Daniel Garback (brother), Willow and Nala (cats), Lucy (dog)

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career has been being a student athlete. The bonds and friendships I have been able to make with my coaches and teammates have allowed me to learn so much

about not only the sports I played, but also about leadership, energy, and hardwork.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? I have learned to step outside of my comfort zone and challenge myself because I've learned that you will never know the impact a certain activity may have on your life unless you take a chance and try it.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment in high school was winning a sectional championship in volleyball my tenth grade year.

What are your plans after high school? I am planning on going to a college to get my masters degree with the goal of becoming a physician's assistant.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? I see myself with a successful career, along with a family of my own. I hope to own a house and have some experience traveling around the world.

Yearbook Conference



Seniors who participated on the JSHS Yearbook staff as an underclassman were eligible to participate in the yearbook conference offered by Jostens at the Syracuse Zoo in September. There, they learned about spacial awareness, fonts and coloring, themes, and their other staff members. Students also participated in a cover design workshop where they were able to create the Oracle's 2024 cover with a graphic designer. It was very neat seeing the seniors' ideas come to life as they spoke about the details. After a provided lunch and lots of new ideas to bring back to the rest of the staff, yearbook seniors enjoyed a walk through the zoo where they continued sharing ideas. The entire staff is excited as they get more involved in the process, and with big changes happening, they are excited to show off how unique this year's yearbook is.

Circle Singing



Students in Concert Choir and Band had a fun and interesting workshop that they attended together thanks to the Tully Arts Council. Joey Blake, a professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, came to Tully to introduce a performance technique revolving around improvisatory performances shared and taught orally through which all students share their vocal talents called circle singing. Students learned how this can be used as a method to tell or enhance their stories. Blake inspired students to be proud of their particular vocal talents, helping them become more comfortable with their voices. Many students gave positive feedback and enjoyed the challenge of finding new ways to use their voices.

Tully was honored to host Blake as he has worked with musicians around the world including jazz singer and songwriter, Bobby McFerrin ("Don't Worry, Be Happy").

From Your SRO

A few reminders from your SRO to keep our students, parents, and staff safe while on campus this winter:

- ◆ Students should dress appropriately for the weather each day.
- ◆ TES students should bring their snow gear each day (snow pants, coats, hats, gloves, boots).
- ◆ Parking lots and sidewalks may have black ice on them, even after being treated, so use an overabundance of caution.
- ◆ Speed limit: 15 MPH; speed limit during inclement weather: the slower, the better.
- ◆ Traffic lanes between the JSHS and TES are off limits to all thru traffic from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 pm - 2:55 p.m.

Observing Veterans Day



Several teachers throughout the district create lesson plans that help students understand why we observe Veterans Day. At the elementary level, students decorate flags, create cards, and discuss what a veteran is. Some students express that they have family members who serve or have served. At the junior high level, students learn how Veterans Day came to be and what it symbolizes. They discuss the importance of this day and partake in making cards for the VA Hospital in Syracuse. They also watch a video explaining the Changing of the Guards and its significance. For the past few years, the eighth grade has also had the privilege of being visited by Tully alumni, Lieutenant Deal, who created a presentation to help students make a real-world connection if they don't already have one. Students in both the elementary school and the JSHS who partake in FFA or Interact Club help with pie making, which are then delivered to veterans in our county. We love that our students are partaking in the observance of Veterans Day and hope they continue to do so in the community. Tully CSD thanks all of our active/inactive members of the military and we want to humbly thank you for your service!

Halloween Happiness

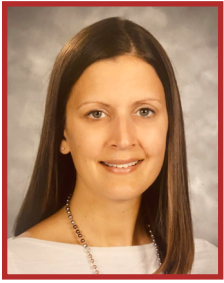


Both schools participated in Halloween activities, some new and some old. The Halloween parade for TES students went well with students parading outside in the first snowfall for Tully this year so parents could see all the creativity. From animals to super heroes to lots of inflatables, there was fun for everyone. Classrooms then had activities planned around the holiday theme. Seniors participated in their parade as well, first marching through TES hallways and then through the JSHS hallways. They enjoyed games and breakfast beforehand. Teachers voted on their favorite senior costumes with "Crocs" winning first place, "The Lorax" winning second place, and "President Luke" winning third. All the costumes were fun and inventive!

Something new this year, linking the older students to the younger students was the Buddy Program Trick or Treating. Freshmen and sophomores met with their TES buddies at the JSHS to trick or treat through the hallways. Clad in their Halloween costumes, the JSHS buddies followed maps of over forty stops throughout the school where JSHS teachers and personnel handed out treats. Students were met with fun music and decorations at some stops. It was not only a fun time for the buddies in the program but for the personnel on campus that got to see the interaction between the younger and older buddies, making this Halloween full of happiness for everyone.



From the Superintendent



The shift from fall to winter is always a reminder of living in Central New York. We are lucky that the Tully community is one of the most beautiful places to be when snow starts to fall.

We would like to take the opportunity to keep you informed about important events in our school district, and one of the key aspects of our planning is the development of the

annual budget.

During the October 10, 2023 Board of Education meeting, the budget development calendar for the upcoming fiscal year was formally adopted. This calendar outlines the significant milestones in the budget development process. We believe it is important to keep the community informed and involved in this process.

To that end, we are excited to share several important dates related to the budget development process including, but not limited to, the presentation of the three sections of the budget, projected revenue, and the presentation of the overall budget during the Public Budget Hearing on May 7, 2024.

December 12, 2023 Board of Education Meeting:

Administrative Budget

January 16, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Capital Budget

February 13, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Program Budget

March 5, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Projected Revenue

March 26, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Review of Overall Budget

April 17, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Review of Fund Balance Management Plan

May 7, 2024 Public Budget Hearing

May 21, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:

Budget Vote/Annual Meeting (8:00 p.m. @ TES)

Your involvement in this process is invaluable, and we encourage you to mark these important dates on your calendar. Your input, questions, and feedback help us make informed decisions that support the best interests of our students. All community members are welcome to attend BOE meetings in-person each month at 6:00 p.m. in the JSJS library (unless otherwise noted).

We are committed to transparency and ensuring that our community is well-informed about the budget development process and other district activities. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need more information regarding the budget or any other aspect of our district's operations.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in the Tully Central School District. Together, we can continue to provide an excellent education for our students.

Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204
Email: darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org

Culture Corner Thailand

Thailand is a country with so many interesting facts, it's hard to focus on a few. This country is known for its beautiful beaches, plentiful temples, and being at the heart of Central Asia. The largest city in Thailand, Bangkok, is the world's hottest city. Pair that with the traditional spicy food and you may need to cool off after visiting!

On any given day, thousands of boats fill the canals of Bangkok where people buy their fruits, vegetables, and fish in floating markets. What a sight to see! If you are a cat lover, you may know that the Siamese cat originated in Thailand. It also houses the world's smallest mammal (bumblebee bat) and largest fish (whale shark) on Earth. Beautiful silk clothing comes from Thailand as the mulberry bush that is cultivated there feeds silkworms.

With so many islands and wondrous cultural experiences, it is no wonder that Thailand is a mecca for tourism. Tully CSD is grateful for a certain teacher and foreign exchange student that can share cultural aspects of Thailand with us!

Board of Education Meetings

The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

December 12, 2023	April 17, 2024
January 16, 2024	May 7, 2024 (Public Budget Hearing)
February 13, 2024	May 21, 2024
March 5, 2024	June 11, 2024
March 26, 2024	

2023/24 Board Members

2025	Mrs. Ryan Chatfield	boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org
2026	Ms. Jessica McAnaney	boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org
2024	Dr. Andrea Mourey	boe.amourey@tullyschools.org
2025	Mrs. Bettemae Russell	boe.brussell@tullyschools.org
2026	Ms. Cheryl Wayne	boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org
2024	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org
2024	Vacancy	

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TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



*Why did the chicken cross the road?
To get to the Junior-Senior High School!*

DECEMBER

- 2 Craft Fair @ JSHS, 10 a.m./ SAT (off-site)
- 9 ACT (off-site)
- 12 BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 13 No Late Buses
JSHS Band / Chorus Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 TES Winter Band/Chorus Concert, 6 p.m.
- 15 SH Student Council Event, 7 p.m.
- 21 No Late Buses
- 22-30 Holiday Recess, No School

Dates are subject to change. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.



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Tully Central
School District



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